



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Telephone (831) 899-6700

FAX (831) 899-6227

TDD (831) 899-6207

March 25, 2003

Honorable Terrance R. Duncan
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Monterey County
P.O. Box 1819
Salinas, California 93902

Re: Response to Monterey County Civil Grand Jury on Fluoridation of Drinking Water in Monterey County

Dear Honorable Judge Duncan:

We respectfully submit the City of Seaside's response to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report regarding Fluoridation of Drinking Water in Monterey County.

FINDINGS:

1. Fluoridation of drinking water will provide a positive health benefit to the citizens of the County with the greatest benefit accruing to the most disadvantaged citizens.

RESPONSE: The respondent does not have the in-house technical expertise or ability to analyze this statement to either agree or disagree with this finding.

2. With the possible exception of smaller water systems, start-up and operations costs of drinking water fluoridation are more than offset by cost avoidance in the areas of dental and general health care.

RESPONSE: The respondent does not have the in house expertise or ability to analyze this statement to either agree or disagree with this finding.

3. There are a multitude of water providers and jurisdictions within the County, and there is no coordinated advocacy program joining political leadership and health professions to implement fluoridation of drinking water.

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:


2. The Cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, Seaside and Soledad and the Aromas, Castroville, Marina Coast and Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Water Districts develop funding and implement fluoridation of drinking water in their water systems and establish a schedule to accomplish these goals.

RESPONSE: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future when funds become available to cover capital, maintenance and operating costs. The Governor signed Assembly Bill 733 (Drinking Water Fluoridation) into law in 1995. This bill requires water systems to fluoridate their water if they have more than 10,000 service connections. It also states that no system will be required to fluoridate unless outside funds are made available from federal, state or private foundation grants to cover all capital, maintenance and operating costs. The State's intent is to fluoridate drinking water whenever and wherever possible without imposing a financial burden on ratepayers and taxpayers. The City of Seaside Municipal Water is a small purveyor of water with 787 water connections. As such, regulations do not require the City to add fluoride to the water. The City will, however, continue to comply with fluoridation regulations and implement this program when funds become available to cover capital, maintenance and operating costs. The City will consider fluoridation to our customers when the two other water purveyors (CalAm Water Company and Marina Coast Water District) within the City of Seaside implements their program.

3. The Cities of Carmel-by-the Sea, Del Rey Oaks, King City, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City and Seaside (for areas serviced by CalAm) which are served by private providers, seek funding and express public support for implementation of water fluoridation by their water suppliers, and establish a schedule to accomplish these goals.

RESPONSE: CalAm, the main supplier of water for Seaside, is committed to fluoridation and will comply with state regulations to add fluoride to its water when funding for installation, maintenance and operation costs are made available. Cal AM is number 27 on the funding list with funding having been provided for the first 17 cities. The City of Seaside anticipates CalAm will comply with the State regulations upon receiving the anticipated funding. Whether or not water fluoridation should be implemented is not an issue that should be decided by the City of Seaside or otherwise involves local governments at this time. The City of Seaside will revisit this issue when funding becomes available for the water purveyors in the county.

Sincerely,


Jeffery C. Smith, Mayor
City of Seaside